



Art Lander Jr. photo

SPRING TURKEY HUNTING

SPRING HUNTING SEASONS

SPECIES	Youth-Only	General Season
Turkey	April 2-3	April 16 - May 8

Both the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons are open statewide.

YOUTH-ONLY SEASON

Open to hunters 15 years of age or younger, but youth hunting licenses and permits are valid for the entire license year, if they are purchased BEFORE the youth's 16th birthday.

Youth who hunt turkeys with a shotgun must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old. The adult must remain in position to take immediate control of the youth's shot-

gun at all times. Adults may not accompany more than two youth at the same time, and are not required to have a license or permit.

BAG LIMITS

- A hunter may take a male turkey or a turkey with a visible beard.
- No more than one (1) bird may be taken per day.
- No more than two (2) birds may be taken per season. Any combination of male turkeys, or female turkeys with visible beards, may be included in this two-bird season limit.

Q: Can more than one Youth Turkey Permit be purchased?

A: Yes. Multiple Youth Turkey Permits may be purchased, but season bag limits must be followed.

- Turkeys taken by youth during the youth-only season count toward the spring turkey bag limit.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

License and permit requirements for spring turkey hunters are explained on pages 4-6.

CALLER / ASSISTANT

Anyone may call turkeys, or assist in the hunt, for a legal hunter.

Callers and assistants don't have to possess hunting licenses or turkey per-

mits if they are not turkey hunting, and may carry equipment while in the field.

POSSESSION/RELEASE OF LIVE TURKEYS

Because of potential disease problems and genetic pollution, it is illegal to possess live wild turkeys. For the same reasons, domestic or pen-raised turkeys should not be released into the wild.

Due to the potential for spread of disease, it is recommended that turkeys not be artificially fed. Providing standing corn, wheat or clover patches is a much better alternative.

See the General Information section of this guide for regulations on feeding wildlife from March 1 - May 31.

PROHIBITED HUNTING METHODS

A person hunting wild turkeys shall not:

- Use a dog during the spring season.
- Hunt from a boat, or from any type of vehicle unless prescribed by regulation (see "Hunting Method Exemptions" on page 12).
- Take a roosting turkey.
- Use or possess an electronic or digital

LEGAL EQUIPMENT

Hunters may ONLY use the following to take turkeys during the spring seasons:

- Breech-loading or muzzle-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge and no smaller than 20-gauge.
- Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than number 4.
- Longbows, recurve bows, and compound bows, of any draw weight (no minimum).
- Crossbows, of any draw weight (no minimum), with a working safety.
- Broadheads at least 7/8" wide, which aren't barbed, chemically-treated, or have attachments that contain chemicals.

Hunter harvest log tagging requirements

All harvested turkeys must be logged, and telechecked as outlined on pages 8-10.

calling device.

- Use live decoys.
- Hunt on a baited area or by the aid of baiting while bait is present, or for 30 days after the bait has been removed. A baited area is an area where feed, grains or other substances capable of luring wild turkeys have been placed. An area where grain, feed or other substance exists as the result of bona fide agricultural practice or manipulat-

ing a crop for a wildlife management purpose is legal for turkey hunting.

- Mimic the sound of a turkey from March 1 until the opening of the spring season in an area open to hunting if turkeys are reasonably expected to occur. (Locator calls such as crow or owl calls are permitted.)

Register your turkey!

For information about registering your turkey with the official NWTF records system, log on to www.nwtf.org or contact National Wild Turkey Federation, Attn: Wild Turkey Records, P.O. Box 530, Edgefield, SC 29824-0530, telephone: (803) 637-3106.

Kentucky
AFIELD

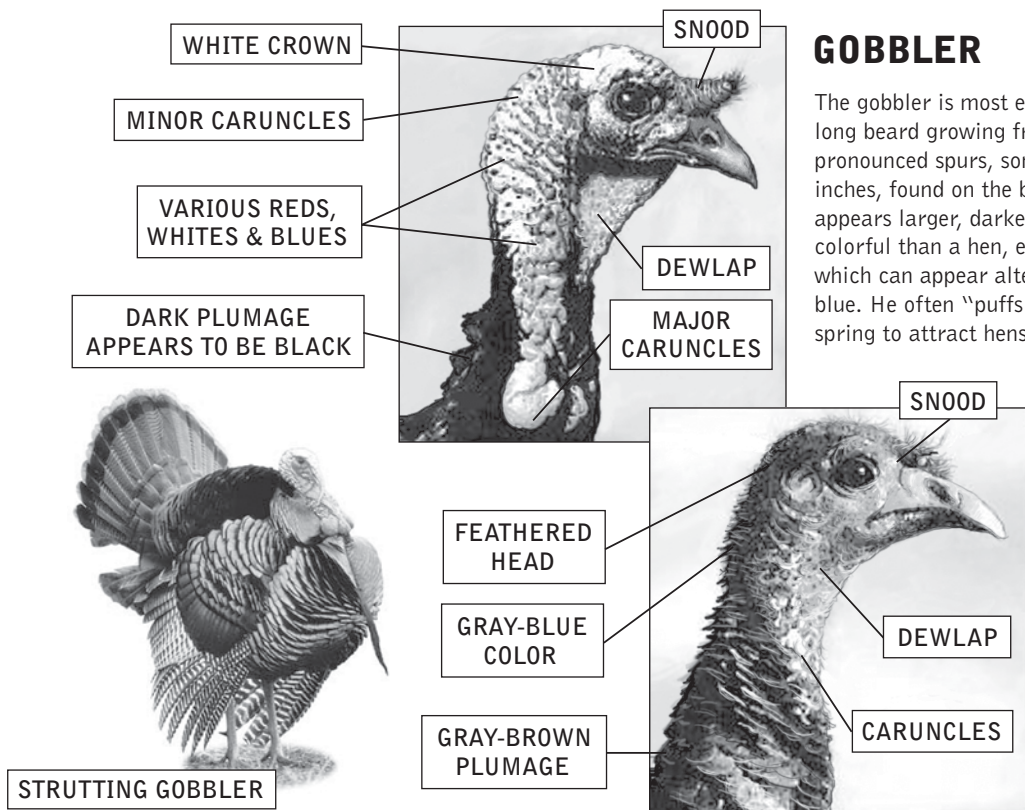
Makes hunting easier.

Ducks fly
overhead at
7:52 a.m.,
8:37 a.m.
and
9:13 a.m.
Be ready.

Kentucky Afield magazine can show you the best places to find fish and wildlife, plus provide the latest Kentucky outdoor news, advice and answers from our experts, recipes for your game or fish, profiles on wildlife management areas and more.

A one-year subscription includes four issues plus the award-winning Outdoor Calendar for only \$10 (\$18 for two years). Subscribe online at fw.ky.gov or call 1-800-858-1549 – and get more out of your hunt!

IDENTIFYING WILD TURKEYS



GOBBLER

The gobbler is most easily recognized by the long beard growing from his chest, and the pronounced spurs, sometimes as long as two inches, found on the back of his legs. A gobbler appears larger, darker, shinier and is more colorful than a hen, especially on his head, which can appear alternately red, white and blue. He often "puffs up" and struts during spring to attract hens for breeding.

HEN

The hen's overall look is for concealment and protection. She is smaller and more drab than the colorful gobbler, so she can sit on her nest well camouflaged. Likewise, her head has more feathers to add to her camouflaged appearance.

Based on information and graphics from the National Wild Turkey Federation website, which can be viewed at www.nwtf.org.

SAFE TURKEY HUNTING TIPS

1. Don't stalk a turkey. The chances of getting close enough for a shot are slim, and your chances of becoming involved in an accident increase.
2. Eliminate the colors red, white and blue from your turkey hunting outfit. Red is the color most hunters count on to differentiate a gobbler's head from the hen's blue-colored head. White can look like the snowball-colored top of a gobbler's head. Leave those white tee-shirts and socks at home. Not only will these colors put you in danger, but they can be seen by turkeys as well.
3. Don't move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter of your presence. A quick movement may draw fire. Yell in a loud voice and remain hidden.
4. Do not attempt to approach closer than 100 yards to a roosting turkey. The wild turkey's eyesight and hearing are much too sharp to let you get much closer.
5. Be particularly careful when using the gobbler call. The sound and motion may attract other hunters.
6. When selecting your calling position, don't try to hide so well that you cannot see what's happening. Remember, eliminating motion is your key to success, not total concealment.
7. Select a calling position that provides a background as wide as your shoulders, and one that will completely protect you from the top of your head down. Small trees won't hide slight movements of your hands or shoulders, which could look like a turkey to another hunter who might be stalking your calls. Position yourself so you can see 180 degrees in front of you.
8. Camouflage conceals you. It does not make you invisible. When turkey hunting, think and act defensively. Avoid all unnecessary movement. Remember, you are visible to both turkeys and hunters when you move even slightly. Sitting perfectly still will help you more than all the camo you can wear.
9. Never shoot at a sound or movement. Be 100 percent sure of your target. Assume that every sound you hear is made by another hunter.
10. After bagging a turkey, wear hunter orange while carrying the bird out of the woods.